



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/569,238	02/22/2006	Jean Fankhauser	HU7991	7817
26294	7590	10/06/2006		EXAMINER
				HAMMOND, BRIGGITTE R
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
				2833

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/569,238	FANKHAUSER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Briggitte R. Hammond	2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4 and 8-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 5-7 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 22 February 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/22/06 & 4/7/06
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 1-11 are objected to because of the following informalities: The claim(s) are narrative in form and replete with indefinite and functional or operational language.

ALL Claims should be checked for proper antecedence. For example claim 1 recites the limitation(s) "the axial", "the intermediate space", "the form", "the limiting face", "the clear width". There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims.

As a courtesy to the applicant, the examiner has "objected" to the claims. However, appropriate correction is required in response to this office action in order to avoid a 35 USC § 112 rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tomasino 6,695,653. Tomasino discloses a cable connection system (at 10), comprising a contact body (12) which has first means on a cable connecting side, the first means comprising an essentially rotationally symmetrical central clamping element (11), which is integrally formed on the contact body (12) and tapers along an axis towards a cable end and a clamping sleeve (16) which concentrically surrounds the

clamping element can be screwed to the contact body (12) in an axial direction and has an inner essentially rotationally symmetrical clamping contour (not number see fig 1) such that, when the clamping sleeve (16) and the clamping element (11) are screwed together, a stranded wire of a cable which is inserted into an intermediate space between the clamping element (21) and the clamping contour cable (30), characterized in that the clamping element 21 is cone shaped and the clamping contour comprises a first section in which a limiting face of the clamping contour extends approximately parallel to the cone face of the clamping cone and in that a width of the clamping sleeve in a region of the clamping contour is smaller than a maximum outer diameter of the clamping cone.

Regarding claim 2, a limiting face of the clamping contour in the first section extends parallel to the cone face of the clamping cone.

Regarding claim 3, a limiting face of the clamping contour has a slightly rounded section in the first section.

Regarding claim 4, a thread region is arranged on that side of the clamping cone which faces away from the cable and a first recess is provided between the thread region and the clamping cone (see fig. 1).

Regarding claim 9, the contact body and the clamping sleeve are produced from metal.

Regarding claim 11, the contact body is shaped as a socket on the contact side.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomasino in view of Bronk 6,343,963. Tomasino discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for flats for the purpose of tightening the screw connection with a defined torque. However, flats on connection devices are well known in the art as evidenced by Bronk. Bronk discloses a connection device having flats 76. Therefor, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the connection device of Tomasino by providing flats for tightening the screw connection device as taught by Bronk.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomasino in view of Herman et al. 5,100,348. Tomasino discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for the contact body and clamping sleeve being produced from brass and provided with a silver plating. However, Herman et al. disclose that it is well known in the art to use brass and silver plating (col. 5, lines 65-col. 6, lines 1-5) which are which is highly resistant. And it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious engineering choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416 (CCPA 1960).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: regarding claim 5, patentability resides, at least in part, in the connection

system having at least one viewing hole provided in the clamping sleeve to visually check the insertion of the stranded wire (29) into a clamping zone between the clamping cone and the clamping contour, in combination with the other limitations of the base claim; regarding claim 7, patentability resides, at least in part, in the connection system having a marker recess arranged on a side of the clamping cone which faces away from the cable, the clamping sleeve being screwed onto the contact body up to the marker recess before the wire is inserted into a clamping zone between the clamping cone and the clamping contour.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brigitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is 571-272-2006. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. and Alternate Fridays from 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Brigitte R. Hammond
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2833

September 28, 2006